

Board of Health
Thursday, February 5, 2009
Penn Room

Members Attending: J. Webb, President; J. Wong; K. Reardon; J. Reber; E. Kimball (arriving after the BCTV program)

Members Absent: S. Nina

Others attending: T. Butler, L. Kelleher

Call to Order

Mr. Webb called the Board of Health meeting to order.

Ms. Kelleher reported that Ms. Nina was unable to attend as she was called to the emergency room with a client. Mr. Webb noted that Dr. Kimball would arrive after the BCTV Program. He suggested moving the meeting to the first Wednesday of the month, due to the existing time conflict with the BCTV program.

Dr. Wong moved, seconded by Mr. Reber, to change the meeting day to the first Wednesday of the month. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda and Minutes

Mr. Webb called the Board's attention to the agenda for this meeting and the minutes from the November meeting.

Mr. Reber moved, seconded by Ms. Reardon, to approve the agenda and the November meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously

Health Officer's Report

Ms. Kelleher reported that Dr. Hassel was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Reardon noted President O'Bama's desire to improve funding of preventative medicine.

Education

Dr. Wong stated that it is too late in the season for a flu flyer. Members present suggested preparing flyers on West Nile Virus and allergens. Ms. Kelleher noted Ms. Katzenmoyer's suggestion for a flier on Lyme disease. Various distribution

methods were discussed such as mailing with water bills and distribution through students in the Reading School District. Members present decided to do a flier on Lyme disease for March-April and a West Nile Virus flier for May-June.

Ms. Kelleher suggested that staff prepare a draft Lyme disease flyer. The draft flier can be sent to Dr. Wong for review and modification within a week. Ms. Kelleher also suggested that staff prepare rack cards for all topics covered in flyers. The rack cards can be placed in City offices. She also suggested asking Reading Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital to place the rack cards in their facilities.

The Board inquired if renewal notices are mailed for ambulance service membership. Mr. Webb noted that membership periods are based on individual membership. The membership period does not apply annually, January through December. Staff was asked to inquire if renewal notices are mailed.

Dr. Kimball arrived at the meeting.

The Board inquired about the ordinance to prohibit smoking in public parks. Ms. Kelleher reported that the ordinance is in effect. The Board noted that when they last inquired about the creation of the No Smoking signs, they were told that funding was not available to create the signs. Ms. Kelleher reported that the signs were provided by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, who gave them to Mr. Churchill soon after the ordinance was passed. She stated that the signs were misplaced for a time but eventually delivered to Public Works. The signs can be easily installed on existing sign posts in the parks. Staff was asked to follow up with Mr. Jones and Mr. Zeiber. The inclusion of smokeless tobacco in the ordinance was discussed.

Health Permit Fees

Mr. Webb noted Dr. Hassel's suggestion to waive health permit fees for non-profit organizations like churches. Dr. Wong noted his concern with some food items included in church events like those made from mayonnaise. He also expressed concern that the elimination of the fee will also eliminate the monitoring of places where food is prepared.

After some discussion, Dr. Kimball moved, seconded by Mr. Reber to recommend that City Council eliminate the food permit fee for non-profit organizations.

MAC Program

Dr. Kimball reported that tonight's program went very well. She also noted the good feedback she has received on various program topics. The uncovered topics to date are:

- Exercise
- Influenza
- Pets/Animals
- Obesity Control
- Spay/Neutering

Dr. Kimball suggested creating a program timeline for six months to a year and publicizing upcoming programs. The group agreed on the following schedule:

- **March** – Poisons
- **April** - Bugs, Ticks and Mosquitoes
- **May** - Sun and Skin Damage
- **June** – Fireworks
- **July** - Food Safety
- **August** – Exercise
- **September** – Firearms
- **October** – Influenza
- **November** - Pets and Animal Control Issues
- **December** - Nutrition

Staff was asked to send the approved schedule to BCTV.

Other Business

Dr. Wong inquired about the participation of Codes at meetings. Ms. Butler stated that Dr. Hassel is affiliated with the Codes Office. She noted that Codes now falls under the Police Department. She noted that Mr. Khokhar and Trades fall under Community Development, adding that Mr. Khokhar was recently laid off.

Mr. Reber stated that he received the Bernhart's Dam plans. He reported that leakage has been identified around a pipe and at places in the breast. Issues about the required draining of the dam were discussed. Mr. Reber noted that draining the dam would recreate the stream ways.

Mr. Reber explained the history of the Dam and the long term contamination of

the park. He stated that the contamination problem originated with Bowers Battery, located where Exide Corporation stands today. He stated that lead contamination does not dissipate over time. He suggested that the sediment be tested after the lake is drained.

Dr. Kimball reported on the tour of the park by City officials along with the City's legal counsel, the PaDOH and the ATSDR. Ms. Kelleher reported that the City received reports that the EPA will be conducting additional soil testing around the Park.

Dr. Kimball suggested creating a foundation, similar to that of the museum, to maintain and care for Bernhart's Park. She explained the creation of a foundation to separate the museum from the Reading School District. Ms. Kelleher stated that the City is using that model to create a Pagoda foundation. The Board also suggested having the Conservancy overtake management of Bernhart's Park.

The Board reviewed the response letter from Representative Santoni regarding noise from illegal mufflers. Staff was asked to resend the letters to Senator O'Pake and Representative Caltagirone. Ms. Kelleher noted that the response would be similar. She stated that the City's current Noise Ordinance includes noise from motor vehicles. Dr. Kimball noted the difficulties Police officers have enforcing this quality of life problem.

Ms. Reardon moved, seconded by Dr. Wong, to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk